

REMARKS:

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application. In the Office Action dated March 29, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakagawa. These rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the instant amendments.

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to include the limitation that the sealed area (claim 1) or expanded portion (claim 5) comprises a substantially annular shape and substantially encircles the inner cover (claim 1) or the intake hose (claim 5). In contrast, Nakagawa discloses a rectangular prism resonator 1b, various rectangular walls of which were referred to by the Examiner as allegedly corresponding to the inventive inner cover (104) and expanded portion (103). Nakagawa does not disclose or suggest a sealed area, between a hose expanding part and an inner cover, or an expanded portion, comprising a substantially annular shape or substantially encircling an inner cover or an intake hose.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Authorization is granted to charge any outstanding fees due at this time for the continued prosecution of this matter to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (matter no. 060945-0151).

Respectfully submitted,



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